

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S REMARKS AT AMBASSADOR KUBISCH'S

SWEARING-IN

1. REMARKS OF THE SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR KUBISCH AT THE AMBASSADOR'S SEPTEMBER 5 SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOLLOW. PRESS WERE PRESENT.

2. BEGIN TEXT. SECRETARY KISSINGER: THERE IS NO MORE IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT IN OUR DIPLOMATIC SERVICE RIGHT NOW THAN AMBASSADOR TO GREECE. THE UNITED STATES HAS HAD A VERY LONG AND VERY DEEP FRIENDSHIP WITH GREECE. WE HAVE ADMIRERD THE HEROISM WITH WHICH GREECE DEFENDED ITS INDEPENDENCE, FIRST AGAINST THE AGGRESSION IN WORLD WAR TWO AND THEN AGAINST THE PRESSURES FROM THE OUTSIDE IN THE PERIOD AFTER WORLD WAR TWO. ANYONE WHO KNOWS THE LONG AND GLORIOUS HISTORY OF GREECE KNOWS THE CONCERN FOR DIGNITY AND FREEDOM THAT ARE INSEPARABLE FROM THE NAME OF GREECE. IN RECENT WEEKS GREECE HAS RETURNED TO A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WITH WHICH WE HAVE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND WHICH THE UNITED

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STATES WILL DO ITS UTMOST TO SUPPORT.

AND IN ADDITION, THE UNITED STATES KNOWS LONG AND FAVORABLY THE CURRENT LEADERS OF GREECE. IT HAS BEEN VERY DIFFICULT FOR THIS NEW GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OVER UNDER CONDITIONS OF GREAT TENSION AND WHEN MANY INDIVIDUALS OF GREEK

NATIONALITY HAD TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES AND LIVE UNDER CONDITIONS OF GREAT DISTRESS ON CYPRUS. THE UNITED STATES SYMPATHIZES WITH THE HUMAN TRAGEDY INVOLVED AND IT WILL DO EVERYTHING WITHIN ITS POWER TO ALLEVIATE THAT ASPECT. AND MOREOVER, AS WE HAVE STATED REPEATEDLY, THE UNITED STATES WILL DO EVERYTHING THAT IS REALISTICALLY POSSIBLE TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE DIGNITY AND THE SELF-RESPECT OF ITS OLD FRIENDS IN GREECE.

BEYOND THAT, WE INTEND TO RESTORE AND TO DEEPEN THE BONDS THAT HAVE HISTORICALLY UNITED US WITH GREECE. IT WOULD BE IDLE TO DENY THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND SOME DISAGREEMENTS IN RECENT WEEKS. BUT THERE IS NO ONE WE COULD SEND TO GREECE WHO IS BETTER ABLE TO INTERPRET OUR POINT OF VIEW AND TO CONVEY THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT TO WHICH HE IS ACCREDITED THAN MY OLD FRIEND JACK KUBISCH. AND THEREFORE, WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THAT EMOTIONS AND FRUSTRATIONS RUN HIGH, WE ARE ALSO CONFIDENT THAT THE LONG-TIME FRIENDSHIP AND THE BASIC IDENTITY OF INTEREST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL AGAIN COME TO THE FOREFRONT AND WE HAVE AN ASSURANCE IN THAT IN THE MAN WE SEND THERE AS AMBASSADOR--WHO HAS MY FULL CONFIDENCE, THE CONFIDENCE OF PRESIDENT FORD, AND WHO HAS BACK OF HIM SO DISTINGUISHED A RECORD. SO I'D LIKE TO USE THIS OCCASION TO EXPRESS MY GRATIFICATION AND THAT OF ALL MY COLLEAGUES IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR THIS NEW ASSIGNMENT, WHICH I KNOW THAT JACK WILL ADD TO THE GREAT SERVICE HE HAS ALREADY RENDERED AND WILL ADD CREDIT TO HIMSELF AND TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

MR. KUBISCH: MR. SECRETARY, YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FRIENDS. THERE IS NO HONOR WHICH CAN COME TO A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER GREATER THAN TO BE NAMED AN UNCLASSIFIED

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AMBASSADOR AND TO REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES ABROAD. THEREFORE, IT IS WITH A SPECIAL SENSE OF GRATITUDE THAT I THANK YOU, MR. SECRETARY, AND THE PRESIDENT FOR THE HONOR YOU HAVE GIVEN ME IN ASSIGNING ME TO GREECE.

I WELCOME THIS NEW ASSIGNMENT TO GREECE VERY MUCH, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK WITH YOU, MR. SECRETARY, ON A NEW SET OF INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS. I THINK THE

HIGH POINTS OF MY FOREIGN SERVICE CAREER HAVE COME IN RECENT YEARS WHEN I HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH YOU--FIRST IN WASHINGTON WHEN YOU FIRST CAME HERE FIVE OR SIX YEARS AGO AND I WAS THE BRAZIL COUNTRY DIRECTOR; THEN IN MEXICO; THEN IN PARIS, WHERE I HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR FREQUENT VISITS IN CONNECTION WITH THE VIETNAM PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE CONTACTS WITH THE

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA; AND MORE RECENTLY HERE IN WASHINGTON AGAIN. BUT NO ASSIGNMENT THAT I'VE EVER HAD IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE HAS BEEN MORE SATISFYING TO ME THAN THIS PAST YEAR WORKING WITH YOU AS WE HAVE ENDEAVORED TO SET A NEW DIRECTION IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

AND I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY TODAY, MR. SECRETARY, THAT YOU HAVE KEPT THE PLEDGE YOU MADE A YEAR AGO AS YOU BECAME SECRETARY OF STATE TO REINVIGORATE THE RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES WITH THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARRIBBEAN. A NEW STRUCTURE OF POLICIES IS BEING DEVELOPED; THE MAJOR PROBLEMS THAT EXIST IN THE HEMISPHERE HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED AND SOLUTIONS FOUND FOR MANY OF THEM AND SOLUTIONS (ARE) ON THE WAY TO BEING FOUND FOR MANY OTHERS.

NOT LONG AGO--JUST A FEW DAYS AGO--I WAS HAVING LUNCH WITH THE DISTINGUISHED DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS HERE IN WASHINGTON, AMBASSADOR SEVILLA-SACASA--WHO IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND NOT HERE TODAY. AND HE SAID TO ME, "JACK, ALL OF THE SISTER REPUBLICS OF THE NEW WORLD LOOK BACK TO THE OLD WORLD, TO THEIR MOTHER COUNTRIES, BUT THEY LOOK TO DIFFERENT MOTHER COUNTRIES--TO SPAIN OR TO PORTUGAL, TO ENGLAND, TO FRANCE AND TO MANY OTHERS." "BUT, HE SAID, UNCLASSIFIED

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"THERE IS ONE COUNTRY THAT WE LOOK TO THAT IS THE MOTHER OF US ALL--TO GREECE." I AM SURE I DON'T NEED TO REMIND THIS GROUP PRESENT HERE TODAY OF THE ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY GREECE, GREEK CIVILIZATION AND THE GREEK PEOPLE TO THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, TO WESTERN CIVILIZATION AND THE WORLD. AND THEREFORE I AM SURE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHY IT IS AN ESPECIALLY PROUD AND AN ESPECIALLY HAPPY OCCASION FOR MY WIFE AND ME TO BE GOING TO GREECE AS THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES. I KNOW I AM GOING AT A VERY IMPORTANT MOMENT IN US-GREEK RELATIONS, AND I WELCOME IT. I WANT YOU TO KNOW, MR. SECRETARY, AND THE PRESIDENT THAT I WILL DO MY ABSOLUTE BEST TO CARRY OUT THE MISSION THAT YOU'VE GIVEN ME. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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